

Information Technology Newsletter

Information Technology Services, State of Nebraska

The Mission of Information Technology is to serve the citizens of Nebraska by providing premier information technology leadership, policy and operations, which facilitate an effective, responsive and efficient government.

Legislative Bill 921

On March 7, 2006 the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 921. This bill provides duties for the Chief Information Officer relating to oversight of the Division of Communications and the Information Management Services Division. This bill officially moves these two divisions under the purview of the CIO by law. The bill keeps the Office of the CIO in DAS for administrative purposes. The bill did **not** create the Division of Information Technology. However, it does make these two divisions part of the Office of the Chief Information Officer. This bill has been presented to the Governor for signature and by the time this newsletter is “published” we anticipate the Governor will have signed this bill into law. The passage of this legislation will allow the Information Technology Services group to coordinate both policy and operational aspects of technology for Nebraska State Government. Our web site at <http://its.ne.gov/> can provide further details on the newly combined organization.

Brenda L. Decker
Chief Information Officer
State of Nebraska

Business Continuity – Disaster Recovery Shared Services Group

Since March 2005, a group of representatives from state agencies have been meeting periodically to discuss ways in which agencies could work together in a cooperative effort in the areas of business continuity (BC) and disaster recovery (DR). The group submitted two items related to BC and DR to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) for consideration in inclusion in the Nebraska Statewide Technology Plan. During their January 27, 2006 meeting, the NITC put in place the Nebraska Statewide Technology Plan 2005-2006 Version 2.0. The Plan included the items submitted by the BC – DR Shared Services Group. There will be more on this topic as information becomes available.

The BC – DR Shared Services Group has been asked to review two NITC Standards and Guidelines as part of the NITC periodic review of their own Standards and Guidelines. There will be more on this topic also, when the information becomes available.

Meeting notes from past BC DR Shared Services Group meetings can be found at:
<http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/scg/workgroups/sharedservices/index.html>

Continuity of Operations Planning and Disaster Recovery Planning Training Sessions

CIO, DOC and IMS staff participated in COOP and DRP training sessions during the month of February. The training sessions were geared to provide information about the state entities working with DAS in the areas of COOP and DRP and to explain the progress made in these areas in the last year.

(If you have questions about Disaster Planning / COOP please contact David Berkland – 471-0688)

Lotus Notes News

Lotus Notes 7 News

Over the next few months, you will notice a few e-mail notices coming from the ITS Help Desk or your agency Lotus Notes administrator regarding Notes 7 upgrades to servers. In a nutshell, here is what is happening:

Notes upgrades are essentially a 3-phase process. When we upgrade Lotus Notes, the process starts with server upgrades. There are a number of Notes servers doing a variety of functions, so the upgrades are done in a particular order to ensure a successful transition. Many of the ITS Notes servers are redundant, meaning that if one server is offline, users fail-over to the other active server. Because of this, when the upgrade work is done, downtimes will be minimal. The upgrade will be fairly transparent to the user. You shouldn't notice any differences.

At a safe point in the server upgrade process, Notes e-mail users can begin to upgrade their workstations to Notes 7 client software. After

that, the Notes administrator will upgrade your mail template. The mail template is the final step and that's when all the new features will appear. The ITS Lotus Notes team is working with the ITS Desktop Support team and the agency contacts and administrators on the upgrades so they will be ready with the changes when the time comes.

The upgrade should not disrupt your work. It's a quick upgrade. Additionally, everything will look very much the same as before. Yet there are plenty of new productivity features tucked away in the action and button bars. Next month's newsletter will contain a list of things that you should try out to see if they are useful to you. But to give you a heads-up, here are a just few things to look forward to:

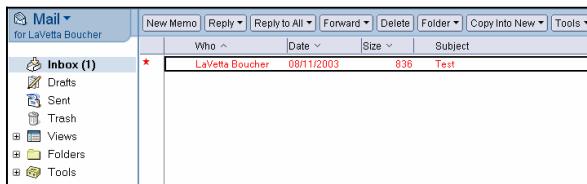
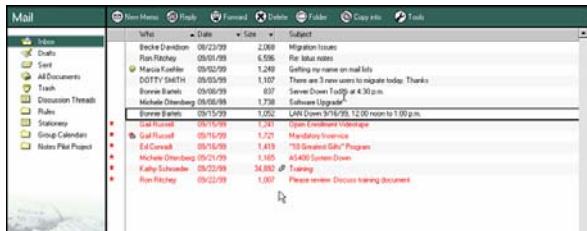
- Sorting By Subject (in the Inbox)
- Follow-up Flags (Notes 6.5 users have seen how messages can be marked)
- Message Marking (tells you if you are the only recipient or if it was sent to others)
- Room Preferences (designate the rooms you prefer when scheduling meetings)
- Easier Calendar Clean-up (Notes provides a dialog box to help clean-up)

Notes Quick Reference Guides

As with Notes 6, ITS will have some quick reference guides available for Notes 7. If you aren't familiar with these, the guides are printed on durable cardstock and summarize many of the basics of Lotus Notes such as the calendar, meetings, mail features, and keyboard shortcuts.

Notes 5 Users

Are you seeing green? Anyone who is still using Lotus Notes with the Notes 5 client software will have a green screen rather than the Notes 6 blue screen. (See next page)



As the system servers are gradually upgraded to Notes 7, please be aware that some issues may crop up for those still on version 5. There were some major changes between version 5 and 6 with structure and calendaring function. The Notes 7 server upgrade will cause further changes. IBM Lotus Notes advises that Notes 5 users upgrade to Notes 6 to avoid problems.

Call the ITS Help Desk if you have problems or want to schedule upgrades on your workstation.

Sametime Issue

Some Sametime (Instant Messaging) users have recently received the following error message at logon:

Single sign on has failed. See reason below.

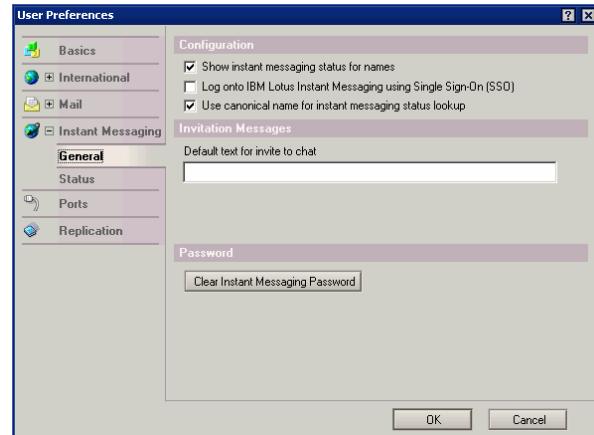
Server Error:

Single Sign-On configuration is invalid.

The pop-up box prompts for a sign on.

The solution is in the User Preference settings. Go to File - Preferences - User Preferences, and uncheck the "Log onto IBM Lotus Instant Message using Single Sign-On (SSO)" as shown below. Then the person can

choose to save their password at the next logon to SameTime.



If an incorrect password error displays after changing the setting, go back to User Preferences and click on the "Clear Instant Messaging Password" button.

If you have this Sametime problem, please report it to the ITS Help Desk and let them know if the problem has been resolved or not. Thanks.

(If you have questions about Lotus Notes contact Marcia Stewart – 471-8226)



Directory Listing Closing Dates

Arlington.....	04/10/06
Benkelman.....	05/01/06
Cody.....	04/15/06
Fremont.....	05/01/06
Grand Island.....	04/15/06
Norfolk.....	05/15/06
Sidney/Kimball.....	05/15/06
Aurora.....	07/01/06
Bladen.....	07/15/06
Byron.....	07/15/06

If you have questions about directory closing dates please contact Renee at 402-471-4701

Phone Fun

Here is a math trick that might get you thinking...

1. Grab a calculator
2. Key in the first three digits of your phone number—NOT THE AREA CODE
3. Multiply by 80
4. Add 1
5. Multiply by 250
6. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number
7. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number again
8. Subtract 250
9. Divide number by 2

Do you recognize the answer?

*Article taken from WesTel Systems Connections, March 2006